

# MICHIGAN SUPREME COURT



## *Office of Public Information*

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **DRIVER'S LICENSE CLEARANCE, JURY DEMAND FEES EXPECTED TO RISE JANUARY 1**

LANSING, MI, December 27, 2002 -- Starting January 1, 2003, motorists whose driver's licenses are suspended for failure to pay traffic tickets can expect to pay \$45 -- an increase of \$20 over the current \$25 charge -- to get the suspension lifted.

The higher fee is mandated by a package of bills that passed the Legislature late this year; the bills are expected to be signed into law before the end of the year. The bills increase juror compensation and fund the raise through increased driver's license clearance and jury demand fees.

The new \$45 charge for driver's license clearance will apply to all clearances that remain unpaid as of January 1, as well as to new suspensions from that date. Of the \$20 increase in the driver's license clearance fee, \$15 will go to the Juror Compensation Reimbursement Fund, which will reimburse local governments for the increase in juror compensation. The remaining \$5 will go to the municipality or county that funds the local court.

Jury demand fees, which are charged to litigants who request a trial by jury, are also slated to increase as of January 1. In circuit court, jury demand fees will increase to \$85 from the current \$60 fee. The \$25 difference will be deposited in the Juror Compensation Reimbursement Fund. In district court, the party demanding a jury trial will pay \$50, an increase over the current \$40 charge. The \$10 difference will also go to the Juror Compensation Reimbursement Fund.

Starting October 1, 2003, jurors will receive not less than \$25 per day and \$12.50 per half day for the first day of jury service; for every day thereafter, jurors will receive not less than \$40 per day and \$20 per half day. Under current law, jurors receive not less than \$15 per day and \$7.50 per half day.

The nine-month interval will allow the Juror Compensation Reimbursement Fund to build up enough revenue to pay for increased juror compensation.

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